

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 OTTAWA 01795 012156Z

72

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AGR-20 DOTE-00 COME-00 CIAE-00 EB-11

INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 SS-15 NSC-10 PA-03

PRS-01 USIA-15 RSR-01 /120 W  
----- 113408

R 012128Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1458

UNCLAS OTTAWA 1795

DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE, DOT, AND ICC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, ETRN

SUBJECT: RAILWAY STRIKE SITUATION

REF: OTTAWA 1781

1. PRESS AND RADIO-TV REPORTS INDICATE FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS:

A. NON-OPERATING WORKERS FAILING TO RETURN TO WORK AFTER TERMINATION OFFICIAL STRIKE THEIR REGION HAVE BROUGHT RAIL SERVICE TO A HALT IN BRITISH COLUMBIA AND REDUCED IT TO MINIMUM IN ALBERTA. UNIONS REPORTEDLY TRYING TO PERSUADE REBELS ADHERE TO NATIONAL STRATEGY WITH MIXED SUCCESS. FEAR EXISTS QUEBEC WORKERS MAY EMULATE THEIR WESTERN BROTHERS.

B. SWITCHMEN IN WINNIPEG (FIRST OPERATING WORKERS TO JOIN IN) HAVE COMMENCED TWO DAY "STUDY SESSION" AND ARE OFF THE JOB TO PROTEST LAYOFFS ARISING FROM SUSPENSION OF THROUGH PASSENGER SERVICES AND OTHER EFFECTS OF NON-OPERATING WORKERS ROTATING STRIKE.

C. EARLIER COMMITMENT OF NATIONAL UNION LEADERSHIP THAT WHEAT MOVEMENTS WOULD BE MAINTAINED APPEARS IGNORED BY LOCALS IN VARIOUS WESTERN DISTRICTS WHO ALSO RESENTFUL AT LAYOFFS.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 OTTAWA 01795 012156Z

SCATTERED REPORTS ABOUND REGARDING DISRUPTION IN WHEAT

MOVEMENTS.

D. FOURTH SELECTIVE STRIKE SCHEDULED NEXT WEEK FOR EITHER MARITIMES OR SASKATCHEWAN-MANITOBA. EXACT LOCALE WILL BE ANNOUNCED JUST BEFORE ACTION COMMENCES.

E. FERRY SERVICES IN MARITIME PROVINCES OPERATED BY RAILROADS MAY BE HALTED AT TIME OF PEAK TOURIST DEMAND.

2. DEMAND FOR TRUCKING IS HIGH AND SUPPLY DOES NOT APPEAR ADEQUATE. TORONTO BASED US CONTAINERSHIP OPERATOR TOLD EMBOFF YESTERDAY SIGNIFICANT PERCENTAGE TRUCK TRAFFIC MOVES LONG-HAUL BY RAIL PIGGY-BACK. ALTHOUGH TRAILERS ARE PLENTIFUL, TRACTORS ARE RELATIVELY SCARCE. THIS CARRIER TRANSPORTS LARGE AMOUNTS OF CANADIAN BEEF TO NON-US FOREIGN MARKETS. BEEF NORMALLY DELIVERED BY PIGGY-BACK REFRIGERATED TRAILER FROM WIDE CATCHMENT AREA FOR STUFFING INTO CONTAINERS AT TORONTO. THEY ARE THEN HAULED BY RAIL OR ROAD TO EAST COAST US PORTS. SOURCE REPORTS SIGNIFICANT INTERRUPTIONS IN COMPANY FLOW OVER COURSE PAST WEEK.

3. CANADIAN LABOR CONGRESS PRESIDENT MACDONALD ISSUED JULY 30 STATEMENT TO EFFECT: (A) RAIL WORKERS CAN NO LONGER BE EXPECTED SUBSIDIZE TRANSPORT SYSTEM; (B) WAGE DEMANDS SOLIDLY SUBSTANTIATED AS WAS CASE IN PAST WHEN WORKERS WERE FORCED TO ACCEPT SUBSTANDARD SETTLEMENTS BY HAVING BEEN DENIED RIGHT TO STRIKE; (C) ROTATING STRIKE SYSTEM INTENDED MINIMIZE ADVERSE PUBLIC EFFECTS AND THUS FORESTALL GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION, BUT RAILROADS THROUGH LOCKOUTS AS WELL AS DENIAL SICK AND LAYOFF PAYMENTS UNDERMINING UNION POLICY OF MODERATION; AND (D) COMPANIES TRYING TO GOAD UNIONS INTO ESCALATING STRIKE INTO COUNTRY-WIDE WALKOUT TO CREATE NATIONAL EMERGENCY SO THAT PARLIAMENT WILL ORDER EMPLOYEES BACK TO WORK ON SUBSTANDARD TERMS.

4. LABOR MINISTER MUNRO REPORTED AUGUST 1 AS SAYING GOC IS CONSIDERING "MORE ACTIVE MEDIATION" IN THE DISPUTE AND THAT ROTATING STRIKES HAVE NOT SO FAR AFFECTED THE ECONOMY AS PREVIOUS STRIKES DID BUT THAT HE WAS ANXIOUS TO SEE THE DISPUTE SETTLED "TO MINIMIZE THE UNFORTUANTE FALLOUT".  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 OTTAWA 01795 012156Z

SCHMIDT

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 01 AUG 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973OTTAWA01795  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** OTTAWA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19730865/aaaabvnk.tel  
**Line Count:** 108  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 73 OTTAWA 1781  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** kellerpr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 17 AUG 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <17-Aug-2001 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <31-Dec-2001 by kellerpr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** RAILWAY STRIKE SITUATION  
**TAGS:** ELAB, ETRN  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005